

Assessment of Master Thesis – Academic Consultant



Study programme: **International Economic Relations**

Field of study: **International and Diplomatic Studies**

Academic year: **2015/2016**

Master Thesis Topic: **Reflection of "otherness" in international relations**

Author's name: **Daniel Kvašňák, BA**

Ac. Consultant's Name: **Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc**

Opponent: **Ing. Tomáš Doležal**

	Criterion	Mark (1–4)
1.	Overall objective achievement	1
2.	Logical structure	1
3.	Using of literature, citations	2
4.	Adequacy of methods used	2
5.	Depth of analysis	2
6.	Self-reliance of author	1
7.	Formal requirements: text, graphs, tables	2
8.	Language and stylistics	1

Comments and Questions:

The thesis combines two important but uneasy domains – a highly abstract and sophisticated theory and methodology (post-positivism, postmodernism, identity and "otherness", discourse analysis) and a topical social, economic, political, or even security issue (migration crisis in Europe). They both have placed high demands upon the author. So the overall result is not perfect. But it is decent in that the author proves he is capable to grasp theory and apply it, in an open and critical manner, on an empirical issue.

The theoretical-methodological part is rather long and descriptive. But this is understandable given the sophistication of the chosen theory/methodology. By detailing and explaining them, the author was able to learn and understand them properly.

The empirical part is not that much a discourse analysis, as planned, but rather an illustration of the migration crisis through the lenses of identity and "otherness". To be fair the author works with "discourse", but only with examples of discourse. It is not evident how those were selected and that they represent the complete discourse around the issue. As the supervisor I am aware that this could have been caused by the author's time constraints, as well as his uncertainty how to approach the topic.

To conclude more positively, the aims were high, the author was thoughtful and enthusiastic, and the paper does not suffer from serious formal errors. Therefore, I recommend it for defence and suggest to mark it "excellent" or "very good", based on the opponent's review and the defence.

Questions: 1) How could the EU, or a government, or social groups and individuals confront the dominant discourse on migration as a security threat? 2) Do you think the Brexit will deliver? Put differently, after the process is finished, or some time after that, will the goals and hopes of its supporters (especially regarding immigration into the UK) be met? Why, why not?

Conclusion: The Master Thesis is recommended for the defence.

Suggested Grade: **1**

Date: 08/03/2016

Ing. Jan Martin Rolenc
Academic Consultant